



Drumbeat: November 6, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on November 6, 2009 - 9:05am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Volatility here to stay in an uncertain oilpatch](#)

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The issue started boiling over following an in-depth piece written by Daniel Yergin, the head of Cambridge Energy Research Associates, on the issue of oil supply. Yergin's thesis is that there are sufficient supplies of oil because of increased energy efficiency and a shift toward conservation. He argues that even with the growing demand in China and India, the focus on innovation will go a long way to changing the way the world produces and consumes energy.

His view was challenged by Matt Simmons, of Simmons and Co., weighing in on the matter in the Financial Times. Simmons, firmly in the peak oil camp, believes that even with developments in technology, the supply of oil is finite.

[ajcOzW4sb1RU">Pemex to Boost Drilling at Chicontepec, Kessel Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Mexican Energy Minister Georgina Kessel said state-owned Petroleos Mexicanos will boost drilling at the Chicontepec field as it seeks to stem falling output.

New technology may help raise production at the geologically difficult field, Kessel said today in an interview at the Bloomberg Economic Forum in Mexico City. Mexico hopes the deposit will produce about 700,000 barrels a day by 2017, compensating for declines at the 30-year-old Cantarell field.

[Two Mexico oil ports shut on bad weather](#)

MEXICO CITY, (Reuters) - Mexico's Coatzacoalcos and Dos Bocas oil terminals, which have been out of operation for much of the week due to bad weather, were closed on

Thursday, the government said.

Coatzacoalcos, which reopened Thursday morning, closed again in the afternoon as high waves made port operations unsafe.

The nearby Dos Bocas oil port remained closed all day due to high waves, the government said.

[Baker Hughes: U.S. Rig Count for October Up 35 to 1,044](#)

Baker Hughes announced that the international rig count for October 2009 was 983, down 3 from the 986 counted in September 2009, and down 113 from the 1,096 counted in October 2008. The international offshore rig count for October 2009 was 267, down 8 from the 275 counted in September 2009 and down 17 from the 284 counted in October 2008.

[Australia: Diesel fuel shortage causes anger among truck drivers](#)

VICTORIAN truckies are fuming about a diesel fuel shortage caused by drought-breaking rain and an early harvest.

And industry insiders say motorists should also expect shortages of unleaded petrol in the period leading up to Christmas.

[China top refiners to run at record in Nov](#)

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's leading refineries will raise their crude processing mildly in November to a record high as signs of recovering demand are piling up while a widely-expected fuel price hike nears.

[Money no object in Chinese bid for Africa's oil](#)

CHINA has offered a near open cheque book to Africa's major oil producers in a bid to guarantee supplies for decades to come.

It has offered \$US30 billion (\$A33 billion) to Nigeria and is negotiating for stakes in oilfields in Ghana and Angola.

China's thirst for oil is expected to be a major topic at the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation, when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets African leaders and ministers in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh from tomorrow.

[Ukraine: Russian gas debt paid on time](#)

KIEV—Ukraine has paid for the Russian gas it used in October just days before a deadline, the prime minister said Friday, seeking to avoid a repeat of the January conflict that saw Russia cut supplies to Europe.

[Shell Considering Arctic Drilling for Oil](#)

Shell said it will decide within months whether to begin drilling for oil and gas off the Alaskan coast despite strong opposition.

The Anchorage Daily News said Thursday that environmentalists and Alaska North Slope officials are opposing possible Arctic drilling in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.

Scientists suspect the two seas may hold significant stores of oil and natural gas.

[Renewable Banality: The Latest British Export](#)

I loved the true story of the Nigerian energy worker who, having received a pay check for \$900, amended the figure to read \$9,000. As the reporter wittily put it, “The check fraud proved entirely successful ... right up to the point where he attempted to cash it.” That’s kind of how I feel about the renewable energy revolution. It will prove entirely successful in the eyes of the public and media -- right up to the point where the lights start going out. And those lights will soon start going out, according to a new report.

[Building A Better Lightbulb](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy is offering \$10 million to the first individual or company to develop an energy-efficient LED replacement for the standard 60-watt incandescent bulb. DOE lighting program manager James Brodrick discusses the L Prize, and what makes a better bulb.

[Nuclear energy not on platter for Pakistan: US](#)

The US, which signed a nuclear agreement with India last year, is not considering the option of providing atomic energy to Pakistan as part of its efforts to resolve the energy-crisis in the country.

[World’s first hybrid power plants show promise](#)

Soon, a bridging approach to solar and gas-fired electricity could reduce carbon

emissions from power generation. Meet the integrated solar combined-cycle (ISCC) power plant, a hybrid design being pioneered in North Africa.

[Spinners and losers in the wind turbine storm](#)

Rural rejecters of wind power aren't bumptious bumpkins, says Adrian Snook. We are asserting our rights as consumers and voters.

[Monbiot: We cannot change the world by changing our buying habits](#)

Small actions allow people to overlook the bigger ones and still claim they are being environmentally responsible.

[10 Most Surprising Places to Find Petroleum](#)

Surprise. Moving away from oil is going to take more work than driving hybrids and avoiding plastic.

[California Water Overhaul Caps Use](#)

LOS ANGELES — California lawmakers on Wednesday approved a series of bills that would vastly overhaul the state's troubled water system. The water package is the most comprehensive to emerge from the state since the 1960s, when California last upgraded its system for what was a far smaller population of users.

Prompted by a protracted drought — which has reduced water supply, harmed the fishing industry and contributed to crop loss — environmentalists and agricultural interests have agreed to broad concessions.

[Back to the Land: The New Green Revolution](#)

With so much yield for so few bucks, it might seem surprising that Indian authorities hadn't dug Thakare a pond long before now. But small farmers like Thakare have been neglected for much of the past three decades — and not only in India. Throughout the developing world, agriculture was the also-ran of the global economy. Governments equated economic progress with steel mills and shoe factories. While urban centers thrived and city dwellers got rich, hundreds of millions of farmers remained mired in poverty. Agriculture in many developing nations stagnated.

Now the farm is back. Fears of food shortages, a rethinking of antipoverty priorities and the crushing recession are causing a dramatic shift in world economic policy in favor of greater support for agriculture. Farmers like Thakare are being showered with more aid

and investment by governments and development agencies than they have in decades in a renewed global quest for food security and rural development. The effort is still in its early stages, and some promises made have yet to be translated into real results. Some programs already in place may prove to be flawed. But a new commitment to agriculture by the global community is clearly emerging.

[Rules on Modified Corn Skirted, Study Says](#)

As many as 25 percent of the American farmers growing genetically engineered corn are no longer complying with federal rules intended to maintain the resistance of the crops to damage from insects, according to a report Thursday from an advocacy group.

[Monbiot: Why growing virgin vegetable oil to burn is crazy](#)

What makes more sense, burning virgin vegetable oil in car engines, or burning it in power stations? The answer is neither. In both cases you are snatching food from people's mouths.

But Andrew Mercer, chief executive of Blue-NG, the company which owns the UK's first power station running on vegetable oil, appears to believe that he is doing the world a favour.

[Defining 'Sustainable' Palm Oil Production](#)

Earlier this week the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, an association of palm oil producers, manufacturers, and environmental groups, concluded its annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with a decision not to include greenhouse gas emissions standards in its certification criteria for 'sustainable' palm oil.

[USDA Research: Does No-Till Really Capture More Carbon?](#)

Chisel and moldboard plowing increased carbon dioxide emissions for a short time. **But measured over the course of a year, carbon dioxide emissions were no different from plots with intensive tillage than plots without it** (EWG emphasis). She also found no consistent patterns to methane releases.

[Climate expert James Hansen to join sleep outs in Boston](#)

Dr. James Hansen, the NASA scientist known for sounding an early alarm about climate change, will join student protesters at a "sleep out" in Boston this weekend.

The students, from Boston-area and other Massachusetts colleges, have been sleeping out on Boston Common and at various campuses to push the state to pass a law committing to clean energy. Their target goal: Have Massachusetts pledge to be using 100 percent clean energy by 2020.

[Study: Managing Emissions Intensity](#)

A new World Bank study finds that some countries have managed to de-link economic growth and CO2 emissions.

[Coping With Climate Change: Which Societies Will Do Best?](#)

As the world warms, how different societies fare in dealing with rising seas and changing weather patterns will have as much to do with political, social, and economic factors as with a changing climate.

[Polluters feel the heat in rising legal tide](#)

THE New Orleans lawyer suing Big Oil over hurricane Katrina is making headway. On October 16, Gerald Maples, who was interviewed by G-BIZ in June, won on appeal the right to sue Murphy Oil and about 30 other big oil and coal companies, under the common law of nuisance, trespass and negligence, for the added ferocity of the 2005 hurricane that wreaked havoc on his home town, killed more than 1836 people and did more than \$US100 billion (\$A110 billion) damage.

It is another sign of a shifting paradigm that will slowly turn hitherto respected energy businesses into corporate pariahs and expose their directors, executives, consultants and lobbyists to increasing scrutiny, finger-pointing and litigation over climate change and its consequences.

[Firing Bullets of Data at Cozy Anti-Science](#)

The term “denialism,” used by Mr. Specter as an all-purpose, pop-sci buzzword, is defined by him as what happens “when an entire segment of society, often struggling with the trauma of change, turns away from reality in favor of a more comfortable lie.”

In this hotly argued yet data-filled diatribe, Mr. Specter skips past some of the easiest realms of science baiting (i.e., evolution) to address more current issues, from the ethical questions raised by genome research to the furiously fought debate over the safety of childhood vaccinations.

[Volatility here to stay in an uncertain oil patch](#)

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[Michael Ruppert, Explaining The Coming 'Collapse'](#)

A one-time freelance writer and the former publisher of a newsletter, *From the Wilderness*, Ruppert believes that human civilization is about to be violently downsized. The cause will be the declining availability of oil, although Ruppert mentions other threats, from genetically engineered foods to the lack of a gold-based currency.

He says "peak oil" has already been reached, meaning that petroleum supplies will continue to fall and prices rise until gasoline, plastic, pesticides and other oil-derived products become unaffordable.

"In the new human paradigm," Ruppert announces, "everything will be local."

He's probably correct — to a degree. But no one can predict how quickly the oil economy will deflate, or what will replace it. Ruppert is right to denounce ethanol as "an absolute joke," but he can't anticipate what other, more energy-efficient alternatives will be developed.

[Apocalypse Soon? Michael Ruppert in Collapse](#)

You'd be hard-pressed to find a movie that channels the anxieties of our time with the power and terror of the documentary *Collapse*. For 82 riveting minutes, Michael Ruppert, a former Los Angeles cop who became a rogue investigative reporter and author, sits in what looks like a brick bunker and talks about where he thinks the United States is now headed. It's not a pretty picture, but it is not a naive one either. The grippingly articulate Ruppert is like Noam Chomsky as a wry pundit of doom.

In 2006, he predicted the current economic crisis, and his startlingly detailed foresight seizes your attention. So you'd better believe that you're sitting up and listening when he starts to talk about "peak oil" – i.e., the likelihood that most of the planet's oil reserves have already been eaten up. According to Ruppert, the "economic crisis" is more than a bad patch; it's the finally visible symptom of a greater underlying instability.

[IEA: Low-carbon plans to cause gas glut](#)

Improvements in energy efficiency and wider deployment of low-carbon technologies could reduce global gas consumption by five per cent by 2015 and 17 per cent by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual scenario, according to new projections from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

[Facts are stubborn things: Arthur E. Berman](#)

We recognize that it may take many years before true pseudo-steady-state flow is reached. But in the Barnett, decline trends are well developed in thousands of wells, and we must forecast reserves based on those trends, and not on some future, model-driven expectation of flattening decline rates.

Let me be clear. We do not dispute the volume of gas *resources* claimed by operators. We do question the *reserves* that, by definition, must be commercial on a full-cycle economic basis.

[Hot oil shares](#)

The world has vast proved energy reserves of 1.3 trillion barrels of oil and 185 trillion cubic metres of natural gas, according to BP statistics. Even if we were never to find another barrel of oil or gas, that's still enough to let us continue consuming oil at current rates for over 40 years and gas for over 60 years. With such reserves, and more being found, it's hard to imagine 'peak oil' – beyond which point production enters terminal decline – happening any time soon.

However, what the statistics don't show is that exploration is getting tougher and more expensive, and the costs of drilling an unsuccessful well are surging. David Bamford, director of Finding Petroleum and non-executive director of Tullow Oil, warns: "The numbers and data are all beset by uncertainty. A lot of the resources are in difficult places that require lots of investment and long lead times. These regions are politically challenging and drilling is getting deeper and tougher." BP echoes these sentiments, saying: "The geologically 'easy' reservoirs were found long ago".

[How to Play Buffett's Big Bet on America](#)

In the years after World War II, the advent of cheap fuel and a brand new interstate highway system led to the rise of “18-wheeler” trucks. As a result, the railroads fell out of favor and inefficiencies and waste abounded.

The situation became so grim for the railroad industry that in the 1980s, the ton-miles per gallon rate for freight transportation was one-tenth what it is today. Many carriers went broke. In the intervening decades, 40% of U.S. railroad track was abandoned. Much of it was ripped up and sold for its scrap value.

[The New American Hub](#)

An analysis released earlier this year by Cushman & Wakefield, the commercial real estate firm, in cooperation with the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, found that between 1985 and 2005, the average price of a barrel of oil was \$24.11; in the past three years, the average has more than tripled, to \$81.45. And who can forget that between January 2007 and July 2008 alone the price of oil surged from \$50 per barrel to \$147 per barrel?

Not only did this rapidly accelerate supply chain costs, it also added a considerable amount of time to deliveries as ocean-going ships slowed to save on fuel. At the height of “peak oil” ships traveling from China to the ports on the U.S. East Coast took 23 days to make the journey rather than the traditional 18 days. And even those who relied on fast-track ships saw their delivery times increase from 14 to 18 days by some estimates.

When oil was \$40 per barrel or lower, the cost of shipping from distant locations in Asia was more than offset by huge manufacturing cost advantages, Cushman & Wakefield’s study said.

[Is Crude Oil Headed Lower?](#)

The numbers tell us that crude imports could grow quickly with any spike in demand. Distillate inventories tell us the economy is not moving goods over the highway (truckers run on diesel), or rail. This conclusion is supported by third quarter results from YRCW, and BNI where freight volume dropped 27%.

[Oil Set for \\$91 on Range Break, BarCap Says: Technical Analysis](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil is set to reach \$91 a barrel in New York after breaking through its four-month trading range and 200-week moving average, according to technical analysis by Barclays Capital.

[Energy-Trading Group Proposes EU Market Disclosures](#)

(Bloomberg) --The European Federation of Energy Traders, the lobby group with members including units of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and E.ON AG, proposed rules for power-plant data to make buying and selling wholesale power fairer.

[UK producer input price inflation jumps in Oct](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - Annual input price inflation for British manufacturers turned positive in October for the first time since February, driven by a rebound in crude oil prices, official data showed on Friday.

[China opposes US anti-dumping duties on oil pipes](#)

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) Friday branded the United States imposition of anti-dumping duties on Chinese oil well pipes as protectionist and vowed to take measures to protect US domestic interests.

[Five Consortiums May Bid In Venezuela's Oil Tender - Report](#)

CARACAS -(Dow Jones)- About five consortiums of oil companies are expected to place bids in Venezuela's long-delayed heavy oil drilling tender scheduled for January, according to media reports Friday.

[Chevron, Exxon and Dong Form Group for Greenland Exploration](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Chevron Corp., Exxon Mobil Corp. and five other companies searching for oil and gas on Greenland formed a group to share information about exploration in the waters around the island that may hold as much in reserves as the North Sea.

The Greenland Oil Industry Association, or GOIA, will hold talks with the local Inuit government on environmental and safety issues, Skaerbaek, Denmark-based Dong Energy A/S, one of the seven companies, said today in a statement.

[Angola Signs Letter Of Intent To Develop Ecuador Oil](#)

LONDON -(Dow Jones)- Angola Thursday signed a letter of intent with Ecuador to explore and produce oil and gas in the Latin American nation, Ecuador's Oil Ministry said in a statement late Thursday.

[Petrobras Makes 'Large' Gas Find in Peruvian Jungle](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Petroleo Brasileiro SA, Brazil's state-controlled oil company, may have discovered at least 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Peru's southern Amazon jungle, Peruvian President Alan Garcia said. The shares surged.

The block may hold as much as 5 trillion cubic feet, Garcia told reporters today in Lima. The Rio de Janeiro-based company is drilling next to the Camisea gas fields, Peru's biggest.

[Halliburton bags Saudi Ghawar gig](#)

US services company Halliburton said today it has won an integrated turnkey drilling contract from Saudi Aramco for work in South Ghawar including work on Uthmaniyah, Haradh, Hawiyah and Shedgum.

['Big Oil' Returns To Redevelop Iraq's Oil Fields](#)

In the six years since the U.S. invasion, Iraq's oil production has hardly matched the level under Saddam Hussein. Iraq's oil minister had been harshly criticized, but this week the world's largest oil companies signed multi-billion dollar deals to redevelop Iraq's oil fields. What's most impressive is that the oil minister got the companies to accept Iraq's conditions and terms.

[Iran's enmity rises with oil](#)

WITH the price of oil close to a new high for 2009, even if it slipped a fraction this week, it's no surprise that Iran is confident enough to try to bend the terms of the supposed new deal to send its most sensitive nuclear material to Russia and France.

[Repsol Shutting Down Bilbao Oil Refinery Before Strike Today](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Repsol YPF SA is shutting down its Petronor refinery in northern Spain as workers prepare for a four-day strike.

[Suncor Third-Quarter Net Rises Amid Petro-Canada Deal](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Suncor Energy Inc., Canada's largest oil company, said third-quarter profit rose 14 percent, even after crude prices tumbled, reflecting its acquisition of Calgary-based rival Petro-Canada.

[Peabody CEO Sees Up to 40% of Earnings From Australia](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Peabody Energy Corp., the U.S. coal producer planning to double Australian exports over the next five years, said the country will likely contribute 30 percent to 40 percent of future earnings.

[Why Do Countries Rich In Oil Still Have Poverty?](#)

This week's Planet Money reports deals with what economists call the "paradox of oil." We'll meet two men who work in the African nation of Angola. One is an American, who makes big money in the oil business. The other is an Angolan who sells chewing gum on the street.

[Greens call Brazil oil finds a tempting trap](#)

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - Brazil's huge offshore oil find, though an economic treasure chest, threatens to undermine the renewable energy industry the country has worked so hard to build.

A possible oversupply of oil products in the local market once expensive exploration, production and refining initiatives are up and running could make ethanol, biodiesel and hydroelectricity less competitive.

This possibility is feeding a vigorous debate about the country's relatively "green" energy matrix falling into a fossil fuel trap.

[Estonia May Sell Eesti Energia Stake to Fund Plant Upgrades](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Estonia's government may sell as much as a third of Eesti Energia AS, the biggest Baltic utility, to help fund an estimated 20 billion krooni (\$1.9 billion) of planned investments including oil-shale power plant upgrades.

[U.S. Must Rely On Entrepreneurial Spirit To Keep Pace, Energy Secretary Says](#)

Mountain View, Calif. The United States will need its entrepreneurial spirit to compete with deep-pocketed China in the race to develop green energy technologies, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu says. "China is moving very aggressively," Mr. Chu told a event organized at Silicon Valley headquarters of search giant Google Inc. "They're now spending more than \$100-billion a year in developing clean energy."

[Nottingham most energy self-sufficient city in the UK](#)

In 2006 Nottingham generated almost 14% of its own heat and power, of this around 4% was from renewables and waste. This makes Nottingham by far the most energy self-sufficient city in the UK.

[Met's anti-burglary campaign upsets eco campaigners](#)

THE Met has been accused of ignoring environmental concerns in its campaign to foil burglars by encouraging people to leave their lights on when they go out.

[Empire State Building goes green the retro way](#)

"There are no solar panels, and we are not planting a green roof," said Anthony E. Malkin, president of the company that manages the Empire State Building. "Everyone talks about going with high-tech materials. We went low-tech."

...Malkin and a team of engineers and designers presented the results of a study on the world-famous building and a plan they say will reduce its annual energy use by nearly 40 percent, eliminate 105,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide each year and save \$4.4 million yearly, by 2013.

[Germany to Help Develop Moroccan Solar-Thermal Energy Projects](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Germany plans to help Morocco develop a water-desalination plant and electricity generators using solar power as part of a larger program to expand the use of renewable energy in the North African nation.

[FACTBOX: Nuclear power plans in Europe](#)

(Reuters) - Nuclear energy is seen by some countries as an effective way to keep up electricity supplies while cutting emissions of climate warming gases from burning fossil fuels.

Lingering concerns over nuclear safety, waste and costs have limited the sector's growth in western Europe but several central and eastern European countries are keen to build them as a way of reducing their reliance on imported fuels.

Below are the nuclear plants being built or planned across Europe:

[BP eyes production of new biofuel types](#)

PARIS (Reuters) - Oil major BP may start construction next year of a cellulosic biofuel plant as part of a push toward commercial production of new types of biofuels from next year, the head of the group's biofuels division said.

BP is planning to develop commercial production of grass-based ethanol in the United States with partner Verenium, which already has a demonstration cellulosic ethanol facility, Philip New, Chief Executive of BP Biofuels, said on Tuesday.

BP is also planning to launch in 2012/13 commercial output of biobutanol at future biofuel plant in the UK, he said.

[Kenya: Country Needs Sustainable Biofuel Projects](#)

Oil prices will always go up and down and unless consistent and sustainable biofuels strategies are developed countries will always be on a start-stop mode.

[Japanese seek US base environment deal](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The heads of two key Japanese prefectures called for US troops to toughen environmental protection as a goodwill gesture, as a row over bases brews ahead of President Barack Obama's visit next week.

[EPA to impose standards on PVC plant emissions](#)

NEW ORLEANS – The Environmental Protection Agency will set new nationwide emission standards for makers of polyvinyl chloride, commonly known as the plastic PVC, under a settlement with environmental groups announced Thursday.

[Study: Nitrogen pollution worsens in Rockies lakes](#)

DENVER – Airborne nitrogen pollution from vehicle exhaust and farm fertilizer is turning algae in the alpine lakes of Rocky Mountain National Park into junk food for fish, a study says.

A similar phenomenon is occurring in Sweden and Norway, according to the study of about 90 high-elevation lakes set to be published in the journal Science on Friday.

[Obama Urged to Find Climate Money](#)

WASHINGTON (OneWorld.net) - Climate analysts are calling on the Obama administration to use an international finance meeting this week to press for a swift end

to subsidies for coal, oil, and natural gas companies around the world.

Obama should also move immediately to end subsidies at home to companies producing energy from fossil-based fuels, said Nancy Soderberg, who served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under Bill Clinton.

This cost savings could then be applied to help communities adapt to the inevitable effects of climate change and prevent the worst from happening, Soderberg argued in an article on the Huffington Post Web site late last week.

[Climate-Agreement Deadline May Slip to End of 2010](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The deadline for 192 countries to complete a new global-warming accord may slip by as much as one year, as negotiators hold back on pledges to slash emissions or pay financial aid to poor nations.

Yvo de Boer, the United Nations supervisor for climate talks, said yesterday in an interview that too little progress has been made to conclude a treaty at a summit in Copenhagen next month, and it may take another year. He spoke in Barcelona, where the final talks before Copenhagen end today.

[Delegates discuss way forward in UN climate talks](#)

BARCELONA, Spain – Countries most vulnerable to climate change said Friday they were incensed that rich nations were rethinking the timetable for concluding a global treaty that would hold them to legally binding targets for cutting emissions.

[Climate talks 'not going well': Ed Miliband](#)

LONDON (AFP) – Negotiations ahead of the crucial UN climate talks in Copenhagen are "not going well", Climate Change Secretary Ed Miliband has warned.

Miliband indicated that December's meeting to agree a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, could be the precursor to a legally binding treaty, rather than yielding one itself.

[Why India Is Playing Hard to Get on Climate Change](#)

If U.S. diplomats consider India to be a major obstacle to global climate-change negotiations – and they do – it might be because of Sunita Narain. The director of the influential Centre for Science and Environment, Narain can be as caustic as she is intelligent, and never more so than when she is taking rich nations to task for what she sees as their hypocrisy on global warming. They pressure the developing world to

control carbon emissions even as they refuse to move themselves, she says. "The rich have to reduce their emissions so the rest of the world can grow," says Narain, speaking in her office in New Delhi. "This is about sharing growth between nations and people. If we can't, then India has to be a naysayer for a bad climate agreement."

[Rudd Criticizes 'Do-Nothing' Climate Change Skeptics](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said "do-nothing" skeptics, deniers and a "gaggle of conspiracy theorists" are among opponents impeding efforts to tackle climate change and pass a carbon pollution reduction plan.

[APEC seeks to slash emissions by 2050](#)

SINGAPORE (AFP) – Asia-Pacific powers including the United States, China and Russia are expected to call next week for sweeping cuts in greenhouse gas emissions on the final countdown to a crunch climate meeting.

[Gore's book a toolbox for fixing climate crises](#)

In 416 pages, Gore offers a potpourri of lavishly illustrated recipes — solar, geothermal, and wind power solutions — for slowing the greenhouse gases warming the climate. "It is now abundantly clear that we have at our fingertips all of the tools we need to solve three or four climate crises," Gore writes. "The only missing ingredient is collective will."

Essentially, Gore proposes moving ahead with such technologies on a broad front while securing an international agreement that puts a price on the carbon dioxide wafting from smokestacks, and limits the deforestation that adds to greenhouse gases. (The Senate's environment committee, led by Sen. Barbara Boxer, D.-Calif, forwarded just such a "cap-and-trade" bill Thursday, for a vote, despite a boycott by committee Republicans.)

['Conspiracy of silence' over climate migrants: UN official](#)

BARCELONA, Spain (AFP) – A "conspiracy of silence" is stifling debate over the future of people who become displaced through climate change, a top UN official for refugees says.

In an interview with AFP at the UN climate talks in Barcelona, Jean-Francois Durieux, in charge of climate change at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said the question "remains taboo."

Under 1951 UN statutes, the term "refugee" applies specifically to a victim of violence or persecution, who is then entitled to help and asylum in other countries.

But no such status exists for people who are forced from their home by drought, flood, storms and rising sea levels unleashed by man-made global warming.



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